IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A maintenance apparatus (10, 100) for a medical handpiece (12) with a chucking structure (52) for detachably chucking and holding a rotary tool (39) along an axis (51) and a bearing (48,49) for rotatably supporting the chucking structure (52) along the axis (51); comprising:

a maintenance fluid supply nozzle (40, 144) fluidly connected to a second fluid supply (38, 122), said maintenance fluid supply nozzle (40, 144) being designed so as to fit into and be detachably connected to a chucking structure (52, 152) in place of a rotary tool (39) so that the maintenance fluid is fed through the nozzle (40, 144) into the chucking structure (52, 152).

Claim 10 (previously presented): The maintenance apparatus (10, 100) of claim 9, further comprising a first fluid supply (36) for feeding the maintenance fluid to a bearing (48,49) of the handpiece (12).

Claim 11 (previously presented): The maintenance apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a connector (33) which is so designed that a handpiece (12) is detachably connected to the connector (33), the connector (33) having a feeding passage (36) of the first fluid supply for feeding the maintenance fluid through the first feeding passage (36) to the bearing (48,49) of the handpiece (12) and a feeding passage (38) of the second fluid supply for feeding the maintenance fluid through the nozzle (40) to the chucking structure (52).

Claim 12 (currently amended): The maintenance apparatus of claim 11,

wherein the connector (33) has a recycling passage (37) which is so designed to be detachably connected to a feeding passage (43) of the handpiece (12) and ~~said handpiece (12) has a recycling passage (44) which is so designed to be detachably connected to~~ said first feeding passage (36) can be detachably connected to a recycling passage (44) of said hanpiece (12),

~~when the handpiece (12) is connected to the connector (33),~~ the maintenance fluid can be fed through the feeding passages (36, 43) of the connector (33) and the handpiece (12) to the bearing (48, 49) of the handpiece (12) and then collected together with said maintenance fluid fed through said supply nozzle (40) through the recycling passages (37, 44) of the connector (33) and the handpiece (12) when the connector (33) is connected to said handpiece (12).

Claim 13 (previously presented): The maintenance apparatus according to any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the nozzle (40) has at least one hole (41, 42) for injecting the maintenance fluid in the form of mist.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The maintenance apparatus according to claim [[1]] 9, wherein said maintenance fluid supply nozzle comprises an elongated nozzle having an outer diameter substantially equal to an outer diameter of said rotary tool, said elongated nozzle having one end portion for insertion into said chucking structure and another end portion for being coupled to said second fluid supply.